

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 02578 300537Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 NSC-05 SP-02 EA-06
EUR-08 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 /047 W
-----034889 301349Z /47

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3179
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2578

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, MY
SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND GOM FINANCE
MINISTER AT ADB MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 70314, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 2375

1. WE URGE THAT EVERFY EFFORT BE MADE TO ARRANGE A MEETING
BETWEEN SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH
BECAUSE OF THE RECENT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN HIS
POLITICAL FORTUNES. TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAS RECENTLY EMERGED AS
A MAJOR CONTENDER FOR THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER AT SOME
TIME IN THE FUTURE. THE OVERWHELMING VICTORY OF THE RULING
NATIONAL FRONT EARLY THIS MONTH IN A SPECIAL STATE ASSEMBLY
ELECTION IN RAZALEIGH'S HOME STATE OF KELANTAN WAS ACHIEVED
UNDER RAZALEIGH'S CLOSE DIRECTION. THE ELECTION GAVE A BOOST
TO THE FORTY-ONE YEAR OLD FINANCE MINISTER'S WELL-KNOWN
AMBITION TO FOLLOW IN THE PRIME MINISTERIAL SUCCESSION AFTER
PM HUSSEIN ONN AND HIS DEPUTY MAHATHIR MOHAMED. THE KELANTAN
VICTORY ALSO STRENGTHENED RAZALEIGH'S CURRENT POSITION IN THE
RULING PARTY AND THEREFORE IN THE GOVERNMENT. RAZALEIGH STILL
HAS STIFF COMPETITION (MOST NOTABLY IN DATO MUSA HITAM, MINISTER
OF EDUCATION), BUT HE IS NOW A FRONT LINE

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CONTENDER FOR EVENTUAL TOP LEADERSHIP. RAZALEIGH IS FLAMBOYANT
AND AMBITIOUS AND HE TENDS TOWARD RADICAL THIRD-WORLD
NATIONALISM. BUT, IN VIEW OF HIS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT
POLITICAL POSITION, EMBASSY HOPES THAT SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S
SCHEDULE WILL PERMIT HIM TO MEET WITH GOM FINANCE MINISTER.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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